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OPENING ADDRESS

*Twenty-Sixth Annual Graduate Fortnight\**

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President, The New York Academy of Medicine

IT is my privilege as President to open this Twenty-Sixth Graduate Fortnight of The New York Academy of Medicine. To those of you who come from far and near I extend a hearty welcome. The subject chosen by our Committee on Medical Education is "Disorders of the Blood and the Blood-Forming Organs." It has been fifteen years (in 1938) since we have had this subject as our topic. It is a timely one, for tremendous advances in the newer knowledge and concepts of hematology have taken place since that time. Much thought and much time have been put into the planning of our program and very many have participated in its formulation. I would wish to remind you that the Graduate Fortnight is not something that has grown like a mushroom over night, but, on the contrary, it is the result of many, many hours of meetings and discussions.

The program has been arranged by the Committee on Medical

\* Given October 19, 1953, at The New York Academy of Medicine.

Education with Dr. Franklin M. Hanger as Chairman and Dr. Robert L. Craig as Executive Secretary, with the able secretarial assistance of Mrs. Clara Binswanger and Miss Una Ryan. The detailed work and planning for the Fortnight have been done by the Sub-Committee on the Graduate Fortnight, headed by Dr. Paul Reznikoff as Chairman. To this Committee the Academy extends its gratitude for bringing to fruition the magnificent program placed in your hands.

The Committee on Panel Meetings headed by Dr. Louis J. Soffer and Dr. Louis R. Wasserman have arranged for six morning panels, each one with a Moderator and four members, making an ensemble of thirty in all. These should be of great value to the practicing physician, for it is at these Panels that he can obtain an answer to many of his problems. We are indebted to those who have been willing to give of their time to insure their success.

Twenty Hospital Clinics, in the afternoon, have been planned and arranged for by a Committee on Hospital Clinics, headed by Dr. Bernard Straus, as Chairman, with a representative on the Committee from each of the twenty hospitals. A departure from the usual procedure in the conducting of these Clinics will be tried, in that, during the first week of the Fortnight, they will be held in ten of our hospitals, and in the second week an equal number of the hospitals will conduct their Clinics here at the Academy. One hundred and eighteen doctors will participate in these. The Academy is most grateful to them for their contribution to the Clinic program and their willingness to serve.

The Scientific Exhibit always holds a high place in our Fortnight, and this year will be no exception. Again we are grateful to Dr. Alfred Angrist and Dr. Norman L. Higinbotham for their great contribution to the Fortnight. And thanks also go to the loyal members of the Academy staff, who have to do with the setting up of the Exhibit, a formidable task in itself.

There is also set up for you by the Library Staff an exhibit of important recent books and a special exhibit relating to hematology. Especially interesting is an historical exhibit on our knowledge of the development of the leukocyte. We would urge you to visit the newly decorated Library and view these.

Motion pictures will be shown at scheduled hours and during the Fortnight a demonstration of Television will be given. This will be an experimental demonstration in scrambling and unscrambling devices and

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techniques in Television transmission. If the latter proves a success, it will open up an entire new field in its relation to medical education.

Finally the Academy wishes, in particular, to thank those who are contributing as speakers at our Evening Sessions. Some have come from long distances at no little inconvenience in time and travel. We welcome them and can assure them that each one in his authoritative presentation will add luster to the science of hematology and reputation to the Academy and to the Graduate Fortnight.

To all the physicians and students of medicine who attend, the Academy, through the Committee on Medical Education, offers you a full program for these two weeks. We trust that the knowledge gained will help you in your practice and in your medical studies. There is much to assimilate.

At the Fortnight's conclusion I predict that each one of you will depart with the assurance that you have received the best available knowledge on "DISORDERS OF THE BLOOD AND THE BLOOD-FORMING ORGANS."